Another joint venture project by M|s. Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) for manufacturing 2.08 lakh tonnes of phosphatic fertilizers in Jordan has also been approved.

Price increase without verifying purchase invoices

405. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1228 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 1993 and state :

(a) what are the details of provisions| mandate in the DPCO, 1987 to allow price increases without any documents relating to purchase of inputs;

(b) whether it is a fact that after DPCO, 1987 most of the price increases have been given without obtaining and verifying purchase invoices from the producers;

(c) whether it is a fact that suo motto powers to reduce prices is only to be utilised for reducing prices in case the producers do not come forward to get their prices reduced consequent to reduction in input costs within a month of such reduction; and

(d) if so, what are the details of cases where such suo motto power has been utilised to reduce prices on account of reduction of input costs or reduction in customs duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Price fixation|revision can be done in the absence of the documents relating to Purchase of inputs as per provisions of paras 8(2), 9(6) and 18 of DPCO, 1987.

(b)No Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. DPCO, 1987 provides for suo-motto fixation|revision of the ceiling prices of formulations consequent to fixation revision of the price of the concerned bulk drug.

Increase in the Prices of Drugs without verification

406. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1222 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 1993 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of conducting any enquiry prices of 55 bulk drugs were increased in August|September, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that necessary pre-requisite of such an enquiry was verification of the past import price, new import price of inputs and also their latest consumption.

(c) whether it is also a fact that these aspects were ignored and benefit was given to the producers of bulk drugs based on imported inputs;

(d) what are the details of drugs whose prices were increased without verification after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(e) whether it is a fact that basic producers were not given any benefit and their applications are kept pending in the Ministry for years;

(f what are the details of such applications and what is the time period taken in each case; and

(g) what steps have been taken to enquire into the whole matter and institute an enquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The cost of production of such bulk drugs which have imported contents is affected by the increase in cost of imported materails due to change in exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies. In order to ensure the availability of the drugs

and medicines, impact of such cost escalation is being given on the basis of cost data available with the Government and in consultation with BICP which is an Expert body in this matter. the provisions of DPCO 1987 do not provide for any statutory requirement regarding conducting any enquiry and verification of the past import price|new import price and latest consumption for the purpose of fixation|revision of the prices. The prices of drugs revised|fixed from time to time have been notified in the Official Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Leave petition against M/s. Carews

407. SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4606 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th August, 1992 and state :

(a) what are the details of the order of the Calcutta High Court in the case of Combiflam of M|s. Carews ;

(b) what is the position of special leave petition that has been filed and whether the issue of tie-up of M|s. Carews with Mallaya Group is also being examined;

(c) whether it is a fact that the company was never exempted as a small scale unit and if so, what action has been taken against them to market their products without price approval; and

(d) what are the names of products which have been marketed without price approval and what steps have been taken to fix the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Out of the three writ petitions filed by M|s. Carews in Calcutta High Court one was decided in June, 1992 by which the Court had directed that the petitioner should be granted necessary exemption as contemplated in the Notification dated 21-7-1988. The operation of the said order was stayed by the Division Bench vide order dated 18-11-1992 in the appeal filed by the Union of India. The issue of tie-up of M|s. Carews with Mallaya Group is being examined in consultation with the Department of Company Affairs.

(c) The position shall be ascertained and facts shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) As per the price list submitted by the Company in March, 1993 all the scheduled formulations are being marketed at the prices approved by the Government.

Decontrol of Molasses

408. SHRI SOM PAL :

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

SHRI SHANTI TYAGI :

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering decontrol of molasses, a by-product of sugar industry;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that a due share of the enhanced profits that is likely to accrue to the sugar mills on this account would be passed on to the sugarcane producers while fixing the minimum support prices of sugarcane ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) A decision on decontrol of molasses is yet to be taken by the Government.